

Hands in Outreach

Savannah Ferland and Madison Wood

Organization Background

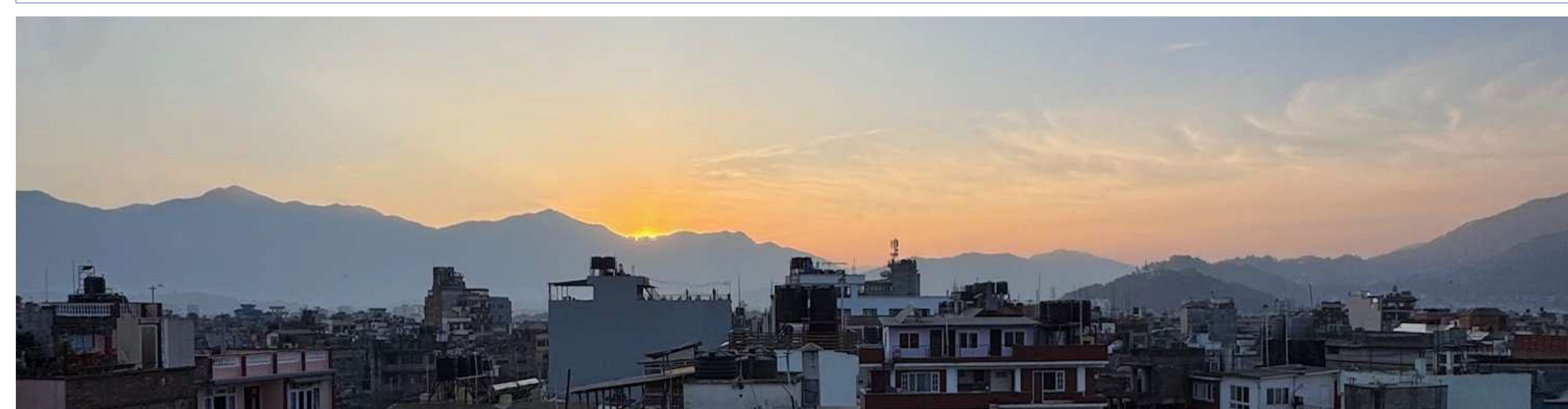


- Founded in the late 80s
- Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
- Mission: To increase access to education for marginalized Nepali girls and women, utilizing an empowerment approach to combat poverty
- Programs
 - Individual Sponsorship
 - Primary funding program that allows girls to attend school in the Kathmandu Valley
 - Reach For the Stars (RFTS)
 - A scholarship program for sponsored girls to pursue higher education
 - Be Part of Her Dream (BPOHD)
 - Mother's classes that meet five times a week, teaching Nepali and English literacy, math, vocational training and financial literacy.
 - Early Childhood Learning Centers
 - A Montessori-based education program for pre-school and kindergarten aged children



Our Work Abroad & What We Learned

- Collaborated on sponsor updates for BPOHD participants to sustain funding
 - Improved skills in stakeholder communication and impact framing
- Facilitated a human rights workshop for RFTS participants
 - Navigated cultural and social differences while fostering a productive learning environment
- Assisted in the transition from paper records to a digital database, promoting international coordination
 - Gained confidence in change management
 - Developed expertise in data organization and system implementation
- Researched and documented the districts and provinces from which each student and her family migrated to the Kathmandu Valley (The Province Project)
 - Refined analytical skills: identifying patterns, correlations, and trends in datasets
- Produced a report on The Province Project, which explored the diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds of HIO families
 - Increased ability to synthesize complex data into meaningful insights
- Created social media content for the organization
 - Enhanced digital marketing and branding skills
- Provided Meta Business Suite training to the Nepali social work team
 - Developed training abilities and technical communication skills
- Engaged in women's education groups and afterschool programs
 - Expanded cultural competence and built relationships across differences



Our Cultural Immersion

- International Women's Day rally
- Making momos and eating lots of dal bhat
- Holi: Festival of Colors
- Osho's Meditation and Motivation for Blissful Living Program
- Buddhist stupas and Hindu temples
- Nepali Film Festival
- Playing Nepali cards (Jhyap)



Our Impact

At Hands in Outreach, we managed systemic improvements, advanced international coordination, strengthened team capacity, and facilitated leadership development. During our time in Kathmandu, we increased advocacy and awareness for Nepali girls and women and are motivated to continue that work from the United States. Most importantly, through connecting with HIO families, we established a strong sense of global community.